

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Page 4, prior to the 2nd full paragraph, please insert the following:

The present invention provides a catalyst composition comprising a composite oxide having a perovskite structure represented by the general formula (1) :

ABRhO₃ (1)

wherein A represents at least one element selected from rare-earth elements essentially including one or more rare-earth elements each having a valence of 3 as the only valence and arbitrarily including Ce and/or Pr; and B represents at least one element selected from transition elements excluding Co, Rh and the rare-earth elements, and A1.